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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Rumania

SUBJECT

[REDACTED] Port Facilities/Economic
Conditions in Braila

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4.

Braila prior to World War II was a beautiful semi-resort town, but now it is in very poor condition. The town's people are wretched, while the Soviet personnel are well dressed. All consumer items are rationed, and little freedom of any kind for the people.

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5. Braila had been very active and prosperous before World War II and handled grain, timber, and coal; it was not very active. The bulk of the cargo handled through the port appeared to be oil. saw six oil barges of approximately 1,000 tons each coming down the Danube bound for Odessa. observed Rumanian and Bulgarian merchant ships and one new Soviet ship of approximately 6,000 tons that was discharging coal. the Braila Dock is dredged to 21 feet, but it is actually dredged to 22 feet. saw gantry cranes on the south side of Braila Dock and also a new warehouse on this same side. also observed four transporters (Soviet type), similar to some seen in the Soviet Union before World War II, located at Braila Dock, could not determine their exact position.

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6.

7. no military installation in Braila, but there is an officers' candidate school for Rumanians in the town. The Rumanian navy had a number of small river patrol boats with six-man crews continually patrolling the river. At Galati ships being worked in the stream and a repair yard which appeared to be handling only small craft. Also several steel river craft of approximately 175 to 200 feet in length that appeared to be under construction. At Sulina observed a Soviet salvage tug of about 175 to 200 feet in length with an icebreaker bow.

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